Expansion and modernisation of steel plants

*596. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH :Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated for expansion and modernisation of steel plants functioning at present in the country; and

(b) the details of various plans formulated therefor, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Modernisation of SAIL's Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants has already been completed in the Ninth Five Year Plan at an estimated total investment of Rs. 12,650 crores. There is at present no proposal for expansion of steel plants of SAIL. However, on an ongoing basis, SAIL implements Addition, Modification and Replacement (AMR) schemes which are internally funded. During 2003-04, and outlay of Rs. 600 crores has been kept for funding these AMR schemes. Amongst the major schemes being undertaken are Installation of a New Ladle Furnace in Steel Melting Shop at Durgapur Steel Plant (Estimated cost Rs. 23.3 crores), Rebuilding of Coke Oven Battery at Rourkela Steel Plant (Estimated cost Rs. 112.3 crores). ERW pipe plant at Rourkela Steel Plant (Estimated cost Rs. 89 crores) and Creation of facility for production of Long Rails at Bhilai Steel Plant (Estimated cost Rs. 320 crores).

The public sector Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) has forwarded a proposal for establishing a 4th Coke Oven Battery at the plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 410 crores. An outlay of Rs. 102 crores has been made for this scheme in 2003-04. Further, a Coal Dust Injunction System, which would result in savings in consumption of Blast Furnace Coke, is proposed to be installed By RINL at an estimated cost of Rs. 66 crores. An outlay of Rs. 40 crores has been made for this scheme in 2003-04. An additional outlay of Rs. 75 crores has also been made for funding the AMR schemes of RINL in 2003-04. All these schemes are to be internally funded by RINL and no provision of budgetary support has been provided.

Ministry of Steel do not monitor information in respect of modernisation and expansion programmes of private sector steel plants.

Achievements of Dakshin Gangotri

*597. SHRI C. RAAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the 'Dakshin Gangotri' and "Maitri" stations set up in Antarctica; and

(b) the future plan of new Antarctica station and the new programmes for the next five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI B ACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) India has set up two permanent stations in Antarctica, namely 'Dakshin Gangotri' during 1983 and 'Maitri' during 1988. Since 1983/1988 the stations have been providing requisite infrastructure facilities for accommodating the wintering and summer teams and for carrying out scientific research in the fields of Atmospheric Sciences and Global change, Earth Sciences, Engineering and Communication Biology and Environment Sciences, etc.

(b) For establishment of another permanent station in Antarctica, necessary reconnaissance survey will be taken up during 2004-05. Some of the new programmes which will be initiated during the next five years include studies on lake biology, Paleoclimate, Antarctic microbes, relation of the Antarctic plate with the Indian plate, telemedicine, clean energy technology etc.

Cleaning up of San gam

*598. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY :

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ganga Action Plan has cleaned up Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the Saraswati, for a holy dip;

(b) if so, why pilgrims and *sadhus* protested in February, 2003 to take dip on Mauni Amavasya Day; and

(c) the action taken to clean up the bathing ghats of Allahabad and Varansai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDE V): (a) to (c) Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, pollution abatement works like interception, diversion and treatment of sewage, low cost sanitation, bathing ghats development, etc. have been